

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2003

DIVISION: COMMUNITY SERVICES

BULK ITEM: NO

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Community Services Division Director report.

1. Report on UF/Monroe County Extension Service Community Listening Sessions
by Doug Gregory, Extension Service Director.

ITEM BACKGROUND: See Attached

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: N/A

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: N/A

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: N/A

COST TO COUNTY: N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: N/A

AMOUNT PER MONTH /YEAR:

APPROVED BY: County Attorney N/A

OMB/Purchasing N/A

Risk Management N/A

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL


JAMES E. MALLOCH, Division Director

DOCUMENTATION: Included XXX

To Follow

Not Required

AGENDA ITEM #

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DISPOSITION: _____

2003 Community Listening Sessions UF/IFAS Monroe County Extension

The University Extension program has requested each county office within the state to conduct community listening sessions to evaluate the community educational needs within Monroe County. The information collected during these listening sessions will assist both county and state Extension programs to develop a four-year plan of work.

Because of our commitment to grassroots involvement, the Extension long-range planning process needs to be community based. The varied perspectives that result through interactions with our Extension advisory committees, traditional and potential audiences and Extension faculty help us translate Extension's purpose, vision, and strategies into relevant community education programs that address economic, environmental and life quality issues facing individuals, families, and businesses.

Since no organization can be all things to all people, a particular focus of these listening sessions will be directed toward issues, problems, and/or concerns that affect people involved in agriculture, aquatic, coastal and aquaculture programs, natural resources and the environment, youth development, family and consumer sciences, energy and housing, and community. Current educational Extension program areas within the Monroe County office include Marine, Horticulture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Youth Development.

Our specific desire/objective is to develop educational programs of relevance and excellence that will help Floridians:

- Realize a better quality of life;
- Produce responsible and productive young people;
- Develop economically sound and environmentally sustainable small businesses, communities, and natural resource dependent industries;
- Develop leadership skills among diverse inhabitants, both in rural and urban settings; and
- Sustain our natural resources, particularly the coastal areas.

In each of the listening sessions we will use a facilitated meeting structure with breakout groups to address the four questions below.

1. What do we value (like) about living in Monroe County?
2. What issues or trends are impacting what we value (like)?
3. If current directions persist, is this where we want to go? If not, what kinds of resources are needed to address these issues/trends?
4. Which of these issues/trends can be addressed through an Extension education effort? And, what priority should be placed on each?